

Bug Bytes

By Valera Jesse

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The Department of Agriculture issued the following press release late Thursday, October 1:

Agriculture Commissioner Irvin warns Georgians to protect structures against termite infestation after recent flooding

Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin alerts Georgians that they need to “consider options” in preventing future termite infestations as a result of recent flooding in the northern part of the state.

“Structures in Georgia are particularly vulnerable to termite attack and it is important to be protected,” says Irvin, whose department license structural pest control operators.

The recent rainfall -- and subsequent flooding -- have saturated soils and damaged homes and businesses that will require major rebuilding. Irvin says now is a good time to review or re-establish termite control measures that may have been disturbed by the flooding.

Irvin says home and business owners should always seek professional help when dealing with termites.

“A licensed pest management professional can best answer the question ‘Is my home or business still protected against termites?’” Irvin says. “If you have a liquid termiticide barrier treatment or termite monitoring/baiting programs (to protect your structure), it is essential that the pest control company determine if the barrier or stations have been disturbed by heavy rains or flooding.”

Re-treatment of termiticide or re-installation of a baiting program may be required.

Irvin says a trained structural pest control professional will be able to look for soil erosion and ascertain if soil has been carried away by the rains and flood and deposited away from a foundation or next to it. If there is a shifting of soil away from a foundation, it may be probable that termite re-treatment will be necessary.

Irvin says re-treatment may also be needed if there is movement of adjacent attached slabs such as patios, porches, driveways and sidewalks or a foundation.

"The disturbance of the liquid barrier treatment or termite monitoring system is an unfortunate occurrence, and is neither the fault of the homeowner, business owner, or the pest control company," the commissioner says. "A property owner needs to review their termite control contract to see who is responsible for the reestablishment of the termite protection. This can be found in the terms and conditions of the contract."

Irvin advises home and business owners to be cautious, in addition to using and seeking the advice only of licensed professional pest control companies.

"If a company is not licensed in Georgia, it is illegal for them to practice termite control work, and your property will not be professionally protected," Irvin says. "If you are in doubt, call Structural Pest Control, Georgia Department of Agriculture at (404) 656-3641." You can also verify a company's operator's license at <http://www.kellysolutions.com/ga/structural/>

"Being inadequately protected is a gamble that you should not entertain," Irvin says. "You want to be 100-percent certain that you don't have a termite problem because if you guess wrong, it could cost you tens of thousands of dollars. Here, an ounce of prevention is the best course."

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What else is going on –

The next BIGGIE is the South Georgia Conference which kicks off next week in Tifton. Why you should come:

GPCA South Georgia Conference - Tifton - October 7-8

Universal Service Ticket, Regulations, Troubled Houses, Commercial Kitchens, Food Safety, Wildlife Management, Bed Bugs, Lice, Ethics, Real Estate, Ethics, Construction Problems, Fungus (pretty timely with all the recent rain!) ***Bait Transfer, Baits or Liquids, Extreme Greene***

\$65 per person - whole conference. Includes all refreshments, continental breakfast, good lunch. No hidden fees.

Check out the attached information and take advantage of this great training opportunity!

Sometimes we hear folks say – I've heard it all before and why should I go to this conference is I've still got time to get my hours. Well, in truth – we've got stuff you need to hear RIGHT NOW:

The new universal service ticket – **and how to fill it out correctly** – presented by a member of the Structural Pest Control Commission

Food Handling Inspections – presented by an AIB certified instructor

The Department's new agenda – food handling, household pest control – presented by a member of the Structural Pest Control Commission.

You need to come because you need to hear what's going on. You will LEARN valuable information at this conference.

We have attached an agenda and registration form.

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One of the most important benefits that we are repeatedly told is that GPCA offers its members a network – a family if you like. We work hard to keep our industry informed not only about government/legislative and technical issues, but also information about fellow pest control professionals.

So goes this part of the BugBytes –

Randy Ely – Exceptional Pest Solutions

You may have seen the homes in Austell that were 'drowned' up to their roofs. Randy's was one of them. He reports that the water rose to the box springs in their upstairs bedroom and that everything was lost except some clothing on top shelves in closets.

Fortunately Randy's son Rand ran the business out of his home far away. Also, Randy's church has already helped him gut the house down to the studs. He and his wife are living in a motel this week and then the promise of a furnished apartment for several months. They have also been approved for FEMA but the maximum benefit is \$30,000. Replacing contents is expensive – not to mention sheetrock, heating and air conditioning systems and appliances.

If you would like to help Randy, there are two avenues: Send to his old address – he gets the mail at the post office: 2911 Pavia Circle, Austell, 30106 or send to his church: Calvary Baptist Church, 3988 Powder Springs Road, Powder Springs, Georgia 30127 with his name on the "for" line.

Randy has worked in our industry for 24 years, 10 at Arrow Exterminating and 14 with North Fulton. He left North Fulton to work with his son. Please remember their family in your prayers.

Wayne Case

We have recently learned of Wayne Case' death. Wayne was the DCO for Alpine Exterminating in Hiawassee. He was 46 when he passed away on Sunday, August 16 2009 at his home. He is survived by his wife Denise, son Matthew and siblings. Sadly Wayne's mother passed away 3 weeks later. Please send sympathy cards to: Mrs. Denise Case, 1352 Taylor Road, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Rex Corbin

Rex, owner, manager and one-man operator for Rex's Pest Control in Ellijay will undergo major surgery next week for Diverticulitis. Rex has been told that he will be unable to work for six weeks minimum. If you would like to send Rex a get well card, please send to: PO Box 800, Ellijay 30540. Rex has served as a region director and is a graduate of our GPCA leadership program.

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Rome PCO Course – Starts October 12, ends November 19 – Registration form attached.

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GPCA Train the Trainer Program – Starts November 2 – ends November 30, Norcross – see attached information.

For information on upcoming events – please check out the GPCA calendar of training at GPCA.org.